

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, in the Office Action mailed October 10, 2003, the Examiner did not attach an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form references that were mailed to the PTO on March 25, 2003. As such, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate that these references have been considered and made of record.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 9 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaufman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,954, 997) in view of Feller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,700,383) and further in view of Grumbine et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,083,419). The Examiner has rejected claim 5 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaufman et al. ('997) in view of Feller et al. ('383) and Grumbine et al. ('419), as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Neville et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,527,423). The Examiner has rejected claims 11, 13, 14 and 16 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaufman et al. ('997) in view of Feller et al. ('383) and further in view of Grumbine et al. ('419). The Examiner has rejected claim 12 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaufman et al. ('997) in view of Feller et al. ('383) and Grumbine et al. ('419), as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Kato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,904,159). The Examiner has rejected claim 15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaufman et al. ('997) in view of Feller et al. ('383) and Grumbine et al. ('419) as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Tsai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,575,706).

The Applicant respectfully traverses. The cited references, either individually or in combination, fail to teach or render obvious the Applicant's claims. In particular, the cited references do not teach the element of "a surfactant comprising an alkyltrimethylammonium halide" as is claimed in independent claim 1. Each of the cited references fail to teach this specific group of surfactants. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 and claims 2-10, 12, 13, 15, and 16 that depend upon and incorporate the elements of claim 1 are not obvious in light of Kaufman, Feller, Grumbine, Neville, Kato, and Tsai. Claim 11 is cancelled.

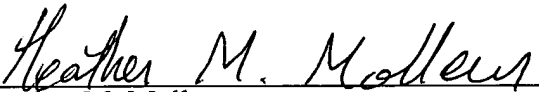
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Reply to Office Action of October 10, 2003

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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